

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01318 211528Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W
-----028349 211858Z /43

R 211245Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4803
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMCONGEN DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN
USDOC WASH DC

UNCLAS MANAMA 1318

USDOC FOR CAGNE

ABU DHABI PLEASE PASS DUBAI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : EALR, EMIN, EIND, BA, XF

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION COMPANY OPENED

1. UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF BAHRAIN, THE NEW BAHRAIN ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION COMPANY (BALEXCO) EXTRUSION PLANT WAS OPENED JUNE 21, 1977. THE \$10 MILLION (FOUR MILLION BAHRAINI DINAR) PLANT, TOTALLY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, IS TO BE OPERATED ON A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT HELD BY ALUSUISSE FOR THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS.

2. THE PLANT HAS RATED ANNUAL CAPACITY OF 3,000 TONS, MOST OF WHICH WILL BE EXPORTED IN THE GULF. BAHRAIN ITSELF EXPECTS TO CONSUME ABOUT 800 TONS PER ANNUM,
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WHILE BALEXCO STATES THAT THE ANNUAL TOTAL GULF MARKET IS APPROXIMATELY 15-20,000 TONS. ALUMINIUM BILLETS ARE SUPPLIED FROM ALUMINIUM BAHRAIN (ALBA), THE 120,000 TON CAPACITY ALUMINIUM SMELTER, LOCATED ABOUT FIVE MILES FROM THE EXTRUSION PLANT.

3. MANPOWER: INITIALLY EMPLOYING ONLY ABOUT SEVENTY

WORKERS, AND OPERATING ONE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFT, BALEXCO
WILL EMBARK ON A SECOND SHIFT IN AUGUST 1977 AND A
THIRD BY EARLY 1978. AT THAT TIME TOTAL EMPLOYEES
WILL BE ABOUT TWO HUNDRED. THE NINE MANA34 -, \$
7034;8 94 -43 3:9,\$3\$ *49. -)7 78 3, WHILE THE
WORKERS ARE BAHRAINI, INDIAN/PAKISTANI AND THAI.
ALUSUISSE HAS UNDERTAKEN TO TRAIN BAHRAINIS TO FILL THE
MANAGEMENT JOBS.

4. COMPETITION: BALEXCO NOTES THAT TWO ALUMINIUM
EXTRUSION PRESSES ARE BEING INSTALLED IN DAMMAM, SAUDI
ARABIA AND KUWAIT AND ANOTHER IS IN THE PLANNING STAGE
IN DUBAI.

5. EQUIPMENT: THE MAJOR PRESS IS SCHLOEMENN
(WEST GERMANY) WHILE THE ANODISING FACILITY IS
PRODUCED BY TURNER ENGINEERING COMPANY OF
CALIFORNIA (WHICH IS ALSO INSTALLING ANODISING
FACILITIES IN DAMMAM, DUBAI AND CAIRO).
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